Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 13-22, with the following paragraph:

A known anti-theft system (see Published, Non-Prosecuted German Patent Application DE 195 42 441 A1) has a vehicle-mounted transceiver unit, which emits an interrogation signal via antennas. If a portable code ~~generator~~ transmitter receives the interrogation signal, it automatically transmits back a coded response signal. The authorization of the response signal is evaluated in the transceiver unit~~, and if~~. If authorization is determined, functions of the vehicle, for example locking or unlocking of door locks or triggering of an immobilizer, are controlled.

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 9-18, with the following paragraph:

In a further known anti-theft system (see Published, Non-Prosecuted German Patent Application DE 197 18 423 A1), a portable code transmitter is used ~~which~~. The portable code transmitter has three antennas, which are each disposed perpendicularly with respect to one another. In this way, signals can be reliably received in the code transmitter

irrespective of how the electromagnetic field was generated because the reception characteristics of the antennas are present in all three spatial directions. A single antenna, which emits a linearly polarized wave, is therefore sufficient as the transmitter.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 6-16, with the following paragraph:

With the foregoing and other objects in view there is provided, in accordance with the invention, a method for operating an anti-theft system. The method includes the steps of using a vehicle-mounted transceiver unit for emitting an interrogation signal provided in a wave having an elliptical polarization or a circular polarization; receiving the interrogation signal in a portable code transmitter; and transmitting back a response signal by the code transmitter only if at least two field components of the interrogation signal, which are different in their spatial direction, are received.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 4-16, with the following paragraph:

With the foregoing and other objects in view there is further provided, in accordance with the invention, another method for operating an anti-theft system. The method includes the steps of receiving an interrogation signal in a portable code transmitter and a response signal is subsequently transmitted back as a wave having an elliptical polarization or a circular polarization; and recognizing the response signal as being authorized by a vehicle-mounted transceiver unit only if[[,]] at least two field components of the response signal, which are different in their spatial direction, are received and[[,]] a coded information item contained in the response signal corresponds to a coded information item expected by a vehicle-mounted evaluation unit.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 3-15, with the following paragraph:

In all the figures of the drawing, sub-features and integral parts that correspond to one another bear the same reference symbol in each case. Referring now to the figures of the drawing in detail and first, particularly, to Fig. 1 thereof, there is shown an anti-theft system for a motor vehicle that has a vehicle-mounted transceiver unit 1. Interrogation signals are emitted in modulated form by the transceiver unit 1 and response signals are received from a portable code

transmitter 2 (see Fig. ~~2~~ 3). An authorization of the response signals is checked in the transceiver unit 1 and when authorization is present, settings are made in the motor vehicle or security assemblies of the motor vehicle are controlled.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, lines 1-13, with the following paragraph:

So that a wave having elliptical or circular polarization can be generated in the low-frequency range (at approximately 125 kHz), the coils S_i, which are disposed perpendicularly with respect to one another are preferably used as the antenna unit 6. Figs. 2A to 2C each show exemplary embodiments of such an antenna unit 6. Because each coil S_x, S_y~~, S_z~~ generates in itself a linearly polarized field, two coils S_x, S_y~~, S_z~~ which are perpendicular to one another at a location generate two electromagnetic fields which are perpendicular to one another and whose field vectors are perpendicular to one another. The two electromagnetic fields, which are generated, are superimposed to form a single superimposed field.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, lines 15-20, with the following paragraph:

If the coils S_x, ~~S_y, S_z~~ are then actuated shifted with respect to one another by a phase angle of less than or equal to 90° (and greater than 0°), an elliptically polarized field is generated as the superimposed field, and in a special case - with a phase angle of precisely 90° - a field having circular polarization is generated.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, lines 22 to page 12, line 10 with the following paragraph:

The coils S_x, ~~S_y, S_z~~ are preferably wound on a ferrite core 11 so that the dimensions of the antenna unit 6 do not become too large and the antennas can be actuated with less energy. In Figs. 2A and 2B, a cross shaped ferrite core 11 is provided on which the coils S_x and S_y are wound diagonally in crisscross fashion and perpendicularly to one another. They are thus wound in such a way that a magnetic flux vector ϕ which is generated in each axial direction when a current flows through a coil S_x, ~~S_y, S_z~~ lies perpendicularly on the flux vector ϕ of the other coil S_x, ~~S_y, S_z~~. Fig. 2C illustrates two ferrite cores 11 on which in each case the coil S_x and S_y is wound. The two ferrite cores 11 are disposed perpendicularly with respect to one another so that the flux vectors ϕ, and thus

a8 the field vectors, are also perpendicular with respect to one another.

Please replace the paragraph on page 16, lines 5-13, with the following paragraph:

a9 Starting from a time t_1, according to Fig. 4A the amplitude of the field is temporarily increased in the x direction (the signal which is phase-shifted by 90° in the y direction is illustrated in Fig. 4B). After the period Δt_0 (i.e. at the time t_2), the transmission is carried out again with a normal field strength. The code ~~generator~~ transmitter 2 transmits a response signal back only if it then also receives an increased amplitude/field strength in one field direction at the time t_1 within only transmitted signal and for the time period Δt_0.